

0485 - Community Corrections

Interim Progress Report for the reporting period July 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

Section I. Agency Update and Assessment

1. Emerging Issues at the Federal (National) or State level affecting the agency.

A) The impact of federal funding sources broadening the pool of eligible agencies to qualify for RSAT Funds is an issue in Arkansas considering the fact that the agency has no funds to target the special needs of offenders with substance abuse and mental health issues. Traditionally, these funds have been set aside exclusively for the corrections population, which DCC shared with the Department of Correction. Recent decisions will allow those funds to be disbursed to local law enforcement entities, assuming through a competitive process. This will jeopardize existing federally-funded programs and will affect the agency's ability to obtain grant funds in the future. (B) The lack of grant funding for treatment and transitional living provisions for special community based correctional treatment programs that focus on rehabilitation or re-socialization is another issue. Aftercare is a critical need for offenders with substance abuse and mental health issues. Without it, treatment cannot be successfully sustained.

2. Status of any new initiatives funded from General Revenue or General Improvement funds in the 2003 Legislative Sessions and other changes made through General Legislation.

A) **Drug Courts:** This is a special (primarily post-adjudication) court given the responsibility to handle probation cases involving drug-involved offenders through an intense supervision, monitoring, and treatment programs. Participants receive outpatient treatment and counseling, are subject to economic and other sanctions, and frequent drug testing and court appearances. Successful completion of the program results in dismissal of the charges, reduced or set aside sentences, lesser penalties, or a combination of these. After completion of the program, graduates enter into a 2-year strictly supervised probation aftercare program. The legislature provided appropriation and funding to continue 7 existing drug courts and expand to establish additional courts, at least one in each judicial district. At this time, 28 courts have been established (including the 7 existing ones), with 26 up and operating, and 2 to be operational by March 2004. Each court is staffed with a supervision officer, counselor and intake officer. Staffing depends primarily on the level of services and the DCC's ability to fund the positions.

As of December 31, 2003, there were 604 offenders participating in drug courts statewide. DCC contracted with an outside evaluator to developing an evaluation tool for this program, and in a couple of instances, to actually evaluate the program effectiveness through process and outcome measures.

B) **Sex Offender Program for Parolees:** The legislature appropriated funds for 10 positions for developing and implementing a pilot sex offender program. Five supervision officers have been employed and received intensive training on how to supervise sex offenders. Additionally, 2 officers were hired and trained on voice stress analysis, and 3 were hired and trained as polygraphers to help maintain the integrity of the program. All have been assigned and are fully certified to manage more than 1300 sex offenders.

C) **Supervision Officers:** The legislature provided funding to decrease the officer to client ratio to a manageable level. This required the addition of 51 new supervision officer and supervisors. By mid-August 2003, all new positions were filled and scheduled for the basic training academy. To date, all are or will meet law enforcement certification by September of 2004. As a result of employing these new officers, the officer to client caseload was lowered to an average of 91 per officer statewide. In 2003, DCC experienced a 2% drop in parole and 1% drop in probation revocations.

D) **Roving Counselor Program:** This program provided substance abuse treatment counseling services to the probation/parole population. Prior to the 2003 legislative session, DCC employed only 14 counselors to provide services to over 44,000 offenders statewide. Studies indicate that an estimated 70-80% of the offender population were influenced by abuse of some kind of mood altering substance or alcohol during the commission of their crimes.

On the average, there are 1600 - 1800 offenders receiving regular counseling services at any given time. During the 2003 session, 7 additional positions were funded. This allowed the DCC to have statewide coverage in terms of offenders access to counseling services.

E) Day Reporting Centers (DRC): A DRC is a highly structured non-residential program that provides supervision, employment counseling, GED education, literacy training, life skills and other community resource services for offenders, reducing the likelihood of future offenses and the cost for incarceration. Offenders may participate as a condition of supervision or as a sanction for non-compliance with the terms and conditions of their supervision. Although the legislature provided appropriation and funding for the 2 existing centers (Texarkana & W. Memphis) and 10 positions for 5 additional centers, the decision was made not to establish the new centers funding, which allows the Department of Correction to invoke an expanded EPA. This results in additional parolees being released early to parole supervision. The 10 positions authorized by the legislature for establishing 5 additional centers were reassigned to comply with the Extended EPA. During 2003, 1087 inmates were released under the regular EPA. The Extended EPA has already been invoked twice, resulting in the release of approximately 178 additional inmates from the Department of Correction.

F) Expansion of Community Correction Centers (CCC): A CCC is a residential program which offers structure, supervision, surveillance, drug/alcohol treatment, educational and vocational programs, employment, counseling, socialization and life skills programs, community work transition and/or other forms of treatment and programs. Prior to the end of the previous fiscal year, DCC had a residential capacity of 965 beds (including 250 for females). 2003 legislation provided appropriation and funding for 150 new beds for the biennium. In November, 2003, DCC opened 50 new beds at the Southeast Arkansas Community Correction Center, establishing a Technical Violators Program for females. Added to the 250 regular beds, this brought the female bed capacity to 300. Further, 50 new beds were opened at the Southwest Arkansas Community Correction Center, bringing that capacity to 375 beds.

G) Technical Violators Program: - DCC received \$6.5 million in capitol outlay, plus operating expenses to construct and operate a 300 bed male facility for technical parole violators. This center will house offenders for a 60-day period of intense treatment before returning them to the community under DCC supervision or being revoked and returned to prison. The building will be located at Malvern, on the grounds of the ADC prison. It is currently under construction and is expected to open this fall. It appears there is not a facility like this anywhere else in the country. A tremendous amount of planning has been done, with the help of the National Institute of Corrections and others. As stated above, in November, 2003, DCC opened 50 new beds at the Southeast Arkansas Community Correction Center, establishing a Technical Violators Program for females. Currently, there are 20 offenders participating.

3. Discuss significant factors internal and external to the agency affecting agency performance.

At this time, the only significant factor that will affect the DCC's performance is the fact that the 5 additional Day Reporting Centers will not be established as is reflected in the performance measures. The initial draft of the agency performance measures indicated a number of Day Reporting Centers would be established across the state. However, since funding priorities dictated otherwise, as discussed above, this program will not be expanded, therefore, the performance measures will not be met at this time. Any reduction in funding will potentially impact the new initiative described above.

4. Provide comments on the usefulness and reliability of performance measures.

The DCC developed and relies on the eOMIS (electronic Offender Management Information System) for tracking offenders and reporting purposes. Staff are working to develop and incorporate the performance measures (as much as possible) into this system for a greater degree of consistency and accuracy of reports. Management believes that with time, measures will evolve, providing more specific information as we review and adjust our focus and goals based on good sound information.

5. Discuss significant uses of line item flexibility in this report period (agencies operating under Performance-Based Appropriations only).

This question is not applicable since DCC is not one of the agencies operating under Performance-Based Appropriations at this time.

Program 1:**SANCTIONS, SERVICES and TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

Goal 1: To provide effective intensified, residential, community-based sanctions in a therapeutic environment as an alternative to traditional prison.

Objective 1: To operate residential correctional centers.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Residential Correction Centers-Measured by # beds	1390	1065	Includes 50 female beds, excludes 300 male technical violator beds scheduled to open fall '04
2	Residential Correction Centers-# walk-aways from community centers	10-20	2	
3	Residential Correction Centers-# resident assaults with weapons	1-10	0	
4	Residential Correction Centers-% neg. resident random drug test results	95%	99.80%	
5	Residential Correction Centers-% ASP referrals of felony crime incidents	100%	100%	One felony case referred to ASP
6	Residential Correction Centers-monetary benefits to the community	10,000 CS Hours	72,763 CS Hours	
7	Residential Correction Centers- # residents in primary program of need	90%	99.90%	
8	Residential Correction Centers-%/# on waiting list for programs	10%	< 1%	
9	Residential Correction Centers-# resident received & oriented	100%	95.90%	
10	Residential Correction Centers-# excessive use of force incidents	≤3	0	
11	Residential Correction Centers-average cost per day/per offender	\$43.26	\$41.14	Based on number of beds per year and total expenditure related to the Residential Correction Centers
12	Residential Correction Centers-treatment bed (counselor) staff ratio -- measures con't next page --	1-25	1:24	

Program 1:**SANCTIONS, SERVICES and TREATMENT PROGRAMS (Continued)**

Goal 1: To provide effective intensified, residential, community-based sanctions in a therapeutic environment as an alternative to traditional prison.

Objective 1: To operate residential correctional centers

13	Residential Correction Centers-# program plans/assessments in 90 days	99%	100%	
14	Residential Correction Centers-#participating in GED (CCCs)	90% of required	98%	Number requiring GED = 352; number currently participating = 344
15	Residential Correction Centers-# completing voc. ed. Progs. (CCCs);	4%	7%	68 have completed during 1st & 2nd Quarter FY04. 7% of current resident population.
16	Residential Correction Centers-accred./certification/licensure audit result	accred. license, certifications	0	All CCC's are currently accredited by ACA. Re-accreditation is scheduled.
17	Residential Correction Centers-offender lawsuits w/financial award	0-5	0	
18	Residential Correction Centers-% suicide incidents responded to timely	100%	100%	One suicide attempt was reported in each quarter. None were successful.

Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:

Program 1:**SANCTIONS, SERVICES and TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

Goal 2: To develop and administer an effective continuum of intensified, non-residential, community-based sanctions, programs, and services needed to effectively address behavior problems, risks and needs of offenders under community supervision.

Objective 1: To establish and maintain a continuum of sanctions, services and treatment programs.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Continuum of programs- # program plans/assessments in 90 days	90%	100%	
2	Continuum of programs- % in program that meets primary need	90%	95%	
3	Continuum of programs-% testing positive for drugs	<20%	25%	
4	Continuum of programs-Counselor to offender ratio (P/P only)	1-100	1 : 131	
5	Continuum of programs-# participating in literacy programs	95% of referred	99.10%	
6	Continuum of programs-# drug courts available	20	28	
7	Continuum of programs-# day reporting centers available	7	2	
8	Continuum of programs-special/caseload sex offender/officer-ratio (1-25)	4	5	Ratio now is 1 : 20

Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:

Day Reporting Centers (DRCs) were authorized and funded by the legislature. However, due to new legislation that allows the expanded Emergency Powers Act (EPA) without additional positions, the DRC positions were transferred to handle the additional cases being released on this act.

Program 2:**PROBATION/PAROLE COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PROGRAMS**

Goal 1: To improve the quality of community supervision, staff and public safety.

Objective 1: To provide effective community supervision services.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Community Supervision-Offender status 3 yrs. into supervision revoked incarcerated for new crimes	30%	Parole 19%	151 (Incarcerated New Crimes) / 791 (Study Population) = 19%. Study completed 8/26/03
2	Community Supervision-% of ordered supervision fees collected	60%	80.05%	
3	Community Supervision-cost of supervision per day/per offender	<\$3.00	\$1.85	
4	Community Supervision-officer/offender ratio	1-100	1 : 91	
5	Community Supervision-supervisor/staff ratio	1-10	1 : 10	
6	Community Supervision-offender lawsuits w/financial award	0-5	1	Collins vs. Pearson

Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:

Program 3:**ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM**

Goal 1: Administer/oversee, provide general direction to more than 800 staff who provide direct supervision and referral services to offenders assigned to adult probation/parole community supervision and who provide direct care, control, treatment and confinement of residents of correctional centers.

Objective 1: To provide executive leadership, administration, support, compliance, accreditation, etc. for services provided to approximately 40,000 offenders on probation/parole supervision at 50 field offices and confined in four community correctional centers.

Measure

<u>Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Central Administration - % of Administration staff and budget compared to overall agency positions and budget	≤10%	6.67%	63 employees at Central Office (excluding IT)
2	Central Administration -employee lawsuits w/financial award	0-5	0	
3	Central Administration -# prior year audit findings repeated in subsequent audit	2	0	Audit pending.
4	Operate Technology Plan-Measured by % IT budget represents of total agency budget	8%	3.30%	IT percent of agency's total budget including staff.
5	Operate Technology Plan-# Information systems DCC maintains or contracts	2	2	
6	Operate Technology Plan-IT Plan progress	100%	50%	The IT Plan is being executed on schedule.

Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1: